

BYE-LO -
(11)

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 13, Number 9

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FROM GREENLAND'S ICY MOUNTAIN

The barren and snow swept shores of Greenland are the home of our 6" Eskimo couple, although the dolls are actually made in the parent country of Denmark. These

polar people have been less changed by the march of civilization than any other people in the globe and they comprise about ninety-five per cent of the population of the world's largest island. However, 85 per cent of Greenland is covered by the polar icecap, so hardly "Olaf," No. 953 and his sweetheart, "Erma," No. 953A, eke a

meager living out of the sea and thin strip of inhabitable land along its rocky coasts. Seal hunting, as indicated by Olaf's harpoon, along with cod fishing and raising a few sheep, combined with furs from white fox, weasels, walrus and caribou hides furnish the staples of life for these primitive people. It is indeed strange to think that in our modern world these people in many respects live just as their ancestors did, thousands of years ago, but at the same time have socialized medicine, parochial schools and a parliamentary

form of government under their status as a Danish colony.

Greenland was originally discovered by Viking adventurers under Eric the Red in the tenth century.



Eric must have been one of the first glib-tongued press agents since it was he who gave the island its unlikely and unrealistic name in the hopes of attracting Norse settlers. It must have worked since he did establish two colonies in the year 986 which flourished for several hundred years but were eventually wiped out by the warring Es-

kimos in the fourteenth century. Little is known of Greenland's history for the next two hundred years as navigators gave it a wide berth in keeping with its name of "the Land of Desolation." Eventually daring traders and the whaling industry combined to once again create European settlements. Today Greenland is one of the most important and strategic NATO bases with sub pens, airfields, radio, radar and meteorological stations.

Our mighty hunter Olaf is completely clad in shiny hair-seal in-

cluding trousers, parka and trim for his leather boots. His harpoon-type hunting spear along with trade knife, in addition to bringing him food and furs, serves as protection against such marauders as polar bears, arctic wolves, and small whales. Erma is the village belle with her single status being denoted by the red ribbon around her top knot. Her costume is really gorgeous by any standard with broad multicolored sash, red leather boots cuffed in dark fur above the knee, fur trousers trimmed in bright cloth, fur trim on her blouse and a colorful cape made entirely of beads with a soft fur collar. Both dolls have hands and faces of hand-painted stockinette and come to **Kimport** from their Danish creator in Copenhagen. Price is \$9.95 each.

MORE ABOUT ROUND-THE-WORLD

by

Ruby Short McKim

Hong Kong, British, duty free port where the legend clings that anyone may purchase any thing, and for less—Hong Kong where we Americans dare not consider any of the bargains whose base material or hand embellishment were from behind the bamboo curtain countries—Hong Kong with that unfathomable abyss between its hundreds of thousands, abjectly poor, and the clean, cool, white homes on the heights!

In a vast world market like this, making such unessentials as dolls a collector would cherish, would not prove alluring. They simply are not being produced in Hong Kong or brought in in any quantity from elsewhere. Current Steiff animals

from Germany with the few elfin type dolls in that line were on sale as were wood carved figurine dolls from Africa, and Japanese geisha dolls always pretty and quite cheap.

Dolls from Siam, exactly five of them, shown in one lovely shop brought an "Oh, no—not for sale; old pieces for decoration only." At the Star of Siam Shop in the Peninsular Hotel, there were cute cloth dolls, little child rag dolls with poochy cheeks and slant eyebrows, but they were big—18 to 24 inches tall, dolls that our kindergarten crowd might love to cuddle, but not right size, or type, I thought, for our discriminating clientele.

One dealer had four ivory Doctor Dolls, those reclining ladies used for diagnosing feminine ills, which, by the way, are said to be the only examples of adult nudity in all of the arts of China! But the reputable shopkeeper could not sell them to me; neither ivories nor antiques are now allowed for American export.

There was one clever line of Hong Kong made Chinese dolls, again quite large rag ones, similar to those Siamese tots. Lost my notation of their trade name, but it was something nondescript like "Betty Lou" or "Mary Jean"—no, it wasn't even "Suzy Wong." Well, anyway, the faces were embroidered with tipped up little eyes and smiley mouths; slim arms and legs were of exaggerated length, but posed with knees up under the chin and held there by tied arms or in some other stylized pose; reminiscent of our "boudoir doll" fad of some forty years ago.

A trip to one very large export and wholesale firm from whose

branch houses **Kimport** has long bought, both in San Francisco and New York, offered nothing new from any Orient countries.

So, three full days in Hong Kong were more revealing than rewarding in a material way, unless you'd allow me to brag about my new costume suit of the roughest, heaviest India silk one could imagine. And, true to tradition, it was rushed aboard, all five pieces beautifully tailored and packed into its special courtesy suitcase at a nerve racking 11:30 p.m.—The Oronsay sailed at midnight!

Manila, and as we had been told, cash exchange rates were not favorable and prices were high. Again we found dolls seemingly designed for "Beatnicks," exaggerated in what was supposed to be those feminine charms, from mascaraed eyes to lacquered toenails! Awful! But at better gift shops like in Hotel Manila, there were the same well made, properly proportioned Philippine adults that **Kim**port has brought over for you, although we have balked and even halted several times when their cost went up from order to order. Notes to add to our pedigree page material include the story of why the gentlemen here proudly and universally wear "barong tagalog" (accent middle syllable.) These cool, often elegantly embroidered shirts of silk are appropriate for all occasions. Their popularity grew from old Spanish suzerainty when no native of the islands was allowed to tuck in his shirt tail!

One individual doll deserves a D.T. word, too, I think. She was the most beautiful, all hand-made Japanese lady, a gift to the wife of the President, now proudly dis-

played in a choice historic museum area of their truly magnificent First Family palace. This doll, about 25 inches tall, would be comparable in costume elegance to any so called Fashion doll that Paris ever produced. Aside from all the proper accoutrements and authentic detail of costume, in her outstretched arms she held the most delightful baby. Their lovely silk mouthed faces smile at each other in such sweetness that it is truly madonna-like. A card in the case with this group said "Ts'heh Ningyo"—with the name of the donor below.


One other find—of doll like proportions, were the cutest little two wheel buggies, something like our old hansom cabs, but in Manila 'tis a "calisa," ornately decorated with silver, bright tassels, etc., with even the pony's harness bedizened in the same South Seas decor. They weren't too expensive—some of you would have loved them, but size, weight and general awkwardness for packing warned "Better not—they are not dolls, you know, and dolls it is what we assemble."

There'll be more, but this can be posted from the vast (2,000,000 population) city of Sydney, a good full week's sailing from the Philippines.

DATED AGAIN

In the Christmas 1959 **Ladies Home Journal** there was one little paragraph in their gay old "50 year ago" column which read:— In the December 1909 **Journal** appeared the first Kewpies, a series of verses and enchanting drawings by Rose O'Neill.

LATE ARRIVALS



So many good new dolls are available this issue that it is difficult to know where to begin. For sheer eye appeal and collector interest combined, priority seems to go to our new Ecuador couple.



These 8" all hand-made dolls are extremely well done and lifelike with handsome heads, hand-carved with tagua or ivory nuts. This vegetable ivory, often used in the making of ornamental buttons and such, actually takes on the luster and feel of real ivory although in this case it has been properly stained a rich reddish brown for authentic complexion coloring. Feet and hands of these unusual dolls are also hand-carved and their bodies are wire base covered with cloth for complete articulation. Their rich and colorful costumes feature bright hued, hand-

loomed materials and each doll holds some native artifact or carries a load of market goods for further realism. Both No. 375, the man, at \$8.25 and matching woman, No. 375A, at \$8.75 wear the famous bowl brimmed, high hats that are so typical of this region. Although this distinctive head gear appears to be of soft and floppy felt, they are actually made quite heavy and stiff by use of a starch-like paste to prevent them from being blown from the heads of their wearers by the gusty winds of this mountainous land.



Much in the news during the Great Debates preceding our Presidential elections were our Nationalist Chinese allies and their off shore islands. Our chubby little 4" boy in tiger hat is made on the principal island of Taiwan or Formosa. He is all cloth construction with big round applied felt eyes and chubby cheeks. His round base enables him to stand sturdily alone for such a tiny waif and we think he is completely irresistible. Hope you agree! No. 408, \$3.00.

Our new Muslim Bride from Karachi in Pakistan looks less than modest in bright red dress with gold and silver trim. However, it is just a case of different lands with different customs as this 9" girl has had a strict and deeply religious upbringing. Neatly made with well formed cloth body, she has an attractive face with good modeling and hand painted features including long lashed black eyes. Authentic touches in her ensemble include large golden earrings, coil bracelets, transparent red scarf that conceals all but the tip of her long, waist length braid of hair and culotte type skirt trousers that touch the ground as she walks. No. 677, \$6.00.



Dolls from Japan are always among the most choice and exotic in any collection but we feel our new trio of 17" Kabuki dolls are bound to be show pieces, even in the most elite of surroundings. All hand-fashioned with silk faces, delicately painted and very expressive, their costumes show a richness of color and a variety as well as quality in the fabrics that set them apart from more commer-

cial products. No. 806A, Lion Dancer, sometimes known as Warrior Bride, is a work of art from the tip of her elaborate coiffure to the hem of her multi-hued kimono, not to mention the elaborate horned and tasseled mask she holds in her hands. No. 806B, Hat Dancer is equally ornate with her handsome black and gold obi, large flat red and gold hat which she wears plus 6 smaller copies of the same hat strung together that she uses in her performance. No. 806C, Toroi Minstrel, wears black wooden platform shoes, yellow kimono with red and green stripes lined in soft purple, strange "thatched" boat shaped hat and carries a three stringed samisen under her arm. All three have top quality black lacquered wooden bases, \$12.50 each.

French made, Santon Christmas Creche sets were pictured and described in detail on page 30 of our new catalog last month. Let us just add here that nothing will add more to your Christmas decor than these richly hued, 11 piece terra cotta groups. 2 3/4" size, No. 510, cost \$12.50 per set. Cricket or 1 5/8" size with inn yard base and stable background, No. 510A, \$17.50. These are fully detailed and finely crafted miniature Nativity sets that you will use and prize for many years and furnish a year round conversation piece for your collection as well.

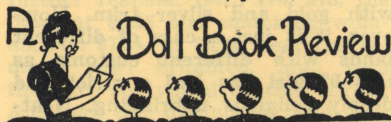
A perfect gift for your friends of Scots descent, even if non-collectors, are our finely sculpted and artistically painted miniature clansmen in 2 1/2" size. All hand done by the famous team of Greenwood and Ball, these metal war-

rriors in 18th century costume come in 108 different tartans. Each has a black wooden base with the clan name imprinted in gold and they come individually boxed in attractive black and gold presentation boxes. Full list of available clans and other details available on request but better hurry as stock is limited and orders for those figures not in stock at **Kimport** are drop shipped direct from Edinburgh with a minimum delivery period of about four weeks. Price of each figure, post paid, **\$10.00.**



Zeeland couple of Holland in 7" size are typical Dutch children with fair hair, ruddy cheeks and blond hair. Johann, No. 301, has dark trousers, striped shirt and shiny visored cap. Frieda, No. 301A, wears a heavy black dress, checkered apron with print yoke and an elaborate headdress with brass

mirrors at either temple. Charming and authentic right down to their wooden sabots, just **\$3.25 each.**



How those popular Doll Volumes do become extinct! Yes, our **Kimport** listing sheet of All Doll Books has to be marked over and reprinted much more often than we all like. But this time there is a wee treasure trove of one beloved 60 page volume, "**Becky, My First Love,**" which came to light by an heir of the late Alice Kent Trimpey, its delightful author. About 20 helpful, interesting illustrations, stiff covers, 6x9, of dark linen, gold imprint—very limited last stock. **Becky** may be ordered at **\$2.50** postpaid.

Last Christmas we ran quite a rave about Tasha Tudor's precious 7x9 size **A is for Anna Belle**—grandmother's doll. You agreed in such numbers that again we're suggesting this alphabet saga where B is her Box, C her Cloak, etc. Tasha T's darling drawings are a classic—Postpaid from **Kimport**—**\$3.15.**

Dolls and Puppets (Revised Edition) Max Von Boehn. This standard work on dolls is an all inclusive, authoritative book with over 500 illustrations. Covers doll field, ancient, modern and antique. **\$7.50.**

Dolls of Three Centuries—Eleanor St. George. Includes photographs and information about outstanding modern and antique collections in the U.S. and Europe. Handsomely illustrated, 198 pages, 350 photos. **\$6.50.**

WORLD CHRISTMAS TREE

What new and clever adaptation of doll displays will be thought up next? Wanda Reaugh of California has created a holiday scene of beauty and with its implication of world friendship is well worth the doing.

"All Nations Tree" is tall and on it are ornaments from more than thirty nations, miniature dolls from twenty-five countries decorate the top branches, graduating in size to the larger dolls of all nations.

"School children came in groups to see the 'World Tree' and learn about the costumes and customs of our kindred nations."

"DAKKOCHON." THE NEWEST DOLL

Who are the Americans with their hula hoop craze to criticize the Japanese for going wild over an embraceable winkle doll called the "Dakkochon"? They may not be collector class—but they surely are being "collected."

It's a strange concoction! A 12 inch high inflated black plastic doll with winking eyes, ring ears and a doughnut mouth. The doll's main drawing cards are arms and legs which cling; an actress may wear them on an ankle, a teenager on arm or purse and a cheerful housewife even on her broom! Girl dakkochons have bows on their heads to differentiate them from boy dolls.

Starting in Japan, the craze has reached America. The fad may give out while prospective buyers are still waiting in long lines. Isn't it fun sometimes to be zany or watch others perform?

THAT'S THE SPIRIT

Amazing Angela Peterson, currently stationed at Ohio Wesleyan University, wrote thus of her delight in receiving three antique Creche figures.

"The Angels are in good proportion to other figures which I am building into my Creche."

Then, after the bit of necessary financial figuring she stated the proper balance owing with the purposeful promise—"You may be sure I will cut this down as fast as possible, so I can go in debt to you again!"

DO YOU KNOW—

Counterbalanced sleeping eyes were observed by 1826, dating wire eyed dolls earlier than 1825?

IT'S AN IDEA ANYWAY!

Leslie Gordon, in her delightful book, *Peepshow Into Paradise*, comes up with an original idea at the very least. She wrote: "Dolls made their appearance in some form or other in most corners of the globe centuries ago, and there is no sign that their popularity is waning. It may have been that Adam, encouraged by observation of what could be done with a mere rib, pulled down an overhanging branch from a near-by tree, and, plucking the smallest twig, made it into a doll for Cain! It may have been that the first doll "just growed," like Topsy, with the first child."

DO YOU KNOW—

Leonardo da Vinci made a female figure in wax that reputedly sold for 8000 pounds?

Long on Christmas Spirit

The price was wrong! Yes, to ferret out the really original source back in Japan seemed to take literally years. But now, Merry Christmas and the price is right! Each 7 inch, beautifully made and dressed doll, centered in its cupboard-like box is here at **Kimport** and in quantity. Shown above is Japan-Girl-Child who can play lady in six different elaborately dressed 'wigs. And below is Japan-Boy-Child who treasures half a dozen fearsome or funny masks in the compartments of his beautifully made wooden box. Both 7 inch children are precious, richly dressed in real silk and brocade; mounted on bases. Their Oriental eyes are inset into smoothest complexioned, well modeled heads, and oh yes, each of his masks has a gay cap back which makes it fit as securely as hers slips over coif. Identifying pictures with text are mounted in the fit-over lid of each "cupboard" box. Slender She is No. 802W, and Chubbier He, No. 802M, price \$5.95 each, \$11.90 the pair.

Betwixt the playtime Japanese is sketched a celluloid Danish child. Six inches tall, platinum blond, dressed in marine blue dress and panties, under a dainty checked apron. Embroidery frilled bonnet with linen lace brim matching that on frock and full petticoat, marked in Danish to say, "Peasant Girl from Vendsyssel." We have one dozen, No. 950B, \$3.95.

Not shown, but should be at gift-giving time, are the smartest 3 inch Italian trinket boxes, in doll form, of course. Cleverly hand enameled on wood, they come in varying pretty tints and styles, such as Colonial dame, girl with flower, May Day Queen, but each so cunning that all are favorites. The upper half of the doll forms the lid which lifts off revealing a hollow interior to the full skirt forming the trinket box and base of the doll. No. 755, \$1.25 each.

Cheapest in our line, we always try to keep 2½ inch all wooden Pinocchio in stock. This impish little character with literary background wears a red paint outfit. That long, sharp nose means he's a fibber! Cute! No. 764, 35c.



Short on Money Cost

Once in a blue moon something so utterly different comes in from afar that even we at **Kimport** are amazed! Such were samples from Ecuador of "Guaguas de pan," which arrived too late to be sketched for your last month's **D.T. Catalog**, but their fascinating story is told there, on page 26. The three pictured give but a gray idea of these richly colored, imaginatively decorated ritual dolls made basically of bread, yes, staff-of-life **BREAD**, but lacquered or something into a permanent glaze. We think they are gorgeously odd, about 2 inch average height; there are several clowns, too, as well as men, women and horses, so specify or trust us. Order number is **376**, price **\$1.50 each**.

You'll probably find yourself humming one of those buoyant beer commercials, as you play 'thumbs up' under these miniature mountaineer puppets! Three and a half inches over all, He mit der mug, She mit 'berella, will flourish these about with cane—and pocketbook, bending ridiculously, weaving and wavering, cocking a high hatted round head and—but you must remember fooling around with loose legged little animals who used to be made on this principal. All wood, and strong elastic; fun, funny and gift-like, he is **No. 767**, and she, **No. 767A**, at **\$1.25 each**, postpaid or **\$2.50 the pair**.

Another 'blue moon' curiosity find was the dancing pair of hollow reed dolls from Northern Rhodesia. They are funny, faceless, tribal trinkets with fur or feather adornments, but the way in which these puppets perform is stranger still. A quote from the 'Keeper of Ethnography' of the museum which secured them for **Kimport**—

"The ends of the string are looped over the toes of the man who is dancing the dolls, then by patting his outstretched legs, he is able to make the figures dance on the surface of the ground and perform various antics." So bare your toes and prepare to learn a new groundwork cha-cha! The pair, about 8 inches tall, is **No. 110**, price **\$1.95**.



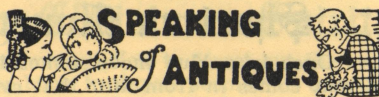
(Shown on Previous Page)

One thing which even the most capitalistic of us dolling warmongers must admit to be of Russian origin, is the old type Matreshka or nested wooden Mother Doll. There is pre-Bolshevik peasant charm to this blithely, brightly painted toy which takes apart and fits back together. Children love it. Definitely decorative, too, as well as being a doll collection item. Set of 5 is No. 940B at \$4.95. Set nesting 3, No. 940A, \$2.50.

Not shown, but another inexpensive favorite which Kimport has offered for many years, 5 inch wooden Jan and Micke from Holland. Jointed at hips and shoulders, smartly attired in Volendam dress, they do look so definitely Dutch from yellow wooden shoes to tall cap and winged bonnet. Painted, with eyes wide apart and tiny tight lips; hair is pale yellow yarn; head shape, rather longish but with well rounded cheeks and forehead. Jan (John) No. 300, or Micke (Mary) No. 300A, 1.95, or \$3.90 the pair.

Phillip, No. 860, and Petriya, No. 860A, are a cunning pair of 5" dolls from the province of Bosnia in Yugoslavia. Red, blue, white and gold are the colors effectively combined in their Arabic styled attire. Extremely well made with appealing silk modeled faces, \$2.25 each.

Our jolly, all-wood Pinocchio from Poland proved so popular last year that we are happy to make him available to you again this Xmas season. Jointed at hip and shoulder with big solid feet, our 7" round headed hero with protruding nose has a tuft of yellow yarn hair, long cap and neat cotton knit clothes. No. 903X, \$1.00.



There is always a smug satisfaction here at Kimport when we have accumulated enough of the kind of dolls written about on that back "Primer Page." Yes, educational copy and selling copy makes for a profitable combination, but sorry, sorry, enough to boo-hoo,—there's not one Putnam Bye-Lo in any of its numerous sizes on our shelves today. When one comes in, it goes to the first in line; anybody have a spare or so to sell us?

But babies are going to be offered here for adoption anyway. First, five small characters, the tiniest being a scant 3 inch parian bisque. Since the honey-hued modeled hair is side parted, we say 'He' is a little beauty; jointed at hips and shoulders, bare toes, bent legs. N21, \$15.00.

His 4½ inch long cradle, all wire in fancy patterning, is dressed with the same embroidered lawn in which the baby is dressed. They did come together, cradle circa 1875 which could be older than the baby; it is No. N21C and priced separately at \$3.50.

Three and a half inches, and of the same smoothness, is another l'il'le boy bisque; pinker than baby, this toddler wears strap slippers and white ribbed socks and he has a tumbled blond bang (all in fine bisque) down from his side part. Another beauty, jointed at hips and shoulders. No. N25, \$12.50.

The last all-bisque, "kicking-legged" baby is 4½ inches and really chubby; short brown wig; the German bisque is not so smooth but the expression is most life-like and cute; nicely dressed, too. No. N39, \$13.50.

Next four babies are bisque headed on jointed composition bodies, which, of course means swivel neck heads. Tiniest is a really rare Heubach with laughing, open-closed mouth showing one, no, two lower teeth, that second incisor barely showing above his smiling lower lip. Sculptured out eyes with pinpoint enamel highlight. Five and a half inches over all height; body is poor, but original; dressed. No. N40, \$20.00.

Seven inch long, bent composition legs, queer sort o' twisty character face, also with wide open-closed mouth, but this baby with the teeth suggestion above his pink tongue. Neck marking an incised D above which is dimly shown the square old Heubach stamping; carved and highlighted eyes and a modeled center fluff of hair above his baby brow. No. N41, \$15.00.

It's a girl! Yes, this pretty 12 inch sleeping bebe with brown bobbed wig and lashes above blue eyes is bedecked in too many lace ruffles, silk embroidered flannel petticoat, pink ribbons, brim bonnet and—such, to be anything but feminine. She bears the K & H (Koppelsdorf and Heubach) stamping and her baby mouth, open-closed again, is most intricately fashioned with bisque tongue and palate sections, but pearly enamel two uppers. No. N42, \$28.00.

No claim to beauty by the so-called "Kaiser Baby," but he is a collector item, this one 13 inches long; sits 8½ inches high; his high browed, oddly modeled head does have a flaw line, like a fired in pencil mark, across the crown; head is 9 inches in circumference. Body has been re-enameled as Baby Wilhelm was undoubtedly played with and loved. No teeth at all in his open-closed mouth. Dressed in old linen dress, with pockets and bootees of the finest hand-knitted wool-like thread. These garments may both well be older than the doll who does pre-date World War One; marked "R" and "12" in Roman numerals. No. A414, \$32.50.

And now a bisque shoulder head infant, one different indeed, though there is no marking except the Germany and some numbers. Sculptured, deep blue eyes, modeled eyelids, rather long (Irish!) upper lip above softly indented mouth, but still not cut through. Almost a "baldy," but there are brown painted hair lines above the ears then all over his head. New cloth body and modern made dimpled baby hands of bisque. Properly dressed. Of course it is the infant shoulders on this 3 inch head which are unusual. Ten inches over all, No. A527, \$29.00.

Girl baby with 3 inch "Dresden bisque" swivel head, 9½ inch size of doll, but that's with those bent to sit—or kick—legs. What's Dresden bisque? Well, a fine parian with glazed porcelain ribbons, flowers or anything, is properly "Dresden Parian." So this lovely smiling doll—still with an open-

closed mouth, is dull or matt finish like all bisque, but her scallop edged bow and embroidery trimmed pale blue bonnet is glazed, above the few blond locks of hair which show. She is darling! No. N43, \$65.00.

With all of these infants being smuggled away until publication date—**Kimport's** "baby shelf" is looking pretty sad, but one more wonderful one (figuratively) cries to be included! Fifteen inches long, a Montanari, which means solid or poured wax, with its short, straight, golden-blond hair inset therein. The 4 inch head is sewn onto original stuffed body through brass grommets in her plump shoulders. Arms are of the same wax; cloth legs, wearing knitted, fine wool stockings. All hand-made, old-fashioned petticoat and gown. Deeply carved wax ears, and the eyelids around threaded blue eyes are especially nice features. No. A460, \$100.00.

And now for a dozen—widely assorted: A 12 inch "Milliner's Model" that could well be a likeness of young Queen Victoria; all original and in wonderful condition for a lady of 125 years! Her old boat necked mull gown reveals deep sloping shoulders and, yes, bosoms; her slender wooden hands and feet are unchipped; rigid kid body is like new. This carefully treasured antique has crisply modeled features, even eyelids, and her inverted V hair style folds back from below ear placement to form a large braided chignon. She will please the most discriminating. No. A511, \$75.00.

From a Queen to "Mrs. 'Arris" is not so far in today's world, so

next the 13 inch French Dress-maker doll, a marked F.G., wearing her old velvet trimmed black serge—but a new travelin' bonnet! Oh, she's a proper swivel neck on bisque shoulders on kid lady body; wears pewter buckled old leather shoes and does have the cheeriest, pert expression due to extra full (closed) lips and round blue eyes. "Mrs.-Harris-Goes-to-Paris" is No. A430, at \$110.00.

French bisque is the quality material, but the manufacturer probably was German for this beautiful blond boy, 12 inches tall with modeled ringlet hair. His Scotch costume is of brilliant wool plaid, black velvet, with leather, linen and fur touches all properly placed. All original of course, from his wee Hi'land cap to the leggin's which cover his parian legs; bisque arms, cloth body. No. N43, \$37.50.

---And an Irishman, one of the old dolls Mrs. McKim did select in London last summer, is this 12 inch tall fellow in traditional Erin attire. The deep shouldered head and limbs are composition—that fine, early kind which really looks like bisque. Deeply rounded, inset brown eyes and a little cut-open mouth (unusual), curly mohair wig and a sturdily stuffed boy body which stands with feet wide apart. His green corduroy pants, brass buttoned waistcoat, heavy swallow-tail coat and even his leather, buckled shoes over knit woolen socks bespeak the auld sod! No. A410, \$30.00.

Next two to dress. Surely some artistic seamstress can well afford to costume 13 inch tall "Miss

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for one year.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS

Independence, Mo.

Emaline," a French bisque beauty with her modeled curls piled high. Original old bisque arms—one hand chipped inside; slim, lady shaped body; replacement legs but her new long dress will cover them. There are holes for ear screws; she is beautiful, adult, but was well mended long ago, truly not too noticeable but that is why she, No. A579, is only \$18.00.

Thirteen and a half inch French "Dressmaker" or "Fashion" with the most winsome, intelligent expression. These slender bisque headed ladies do look almost more like lovely ladies than dolls! Never two exactly alike, this particular undressed blond has a rigid, very clean but old all hand-sewn kid body; only her wired finger leather hands showing any sign of age. Original wig over cork is pretty good; her charming swivel neck bisque shoulder and head are both of finest quality on which the only marking seems to be a figure 1 up under the wig. Ears pierced top to bottom. No. A575 "sans-culottes," \$135.00.

Three old Christmas toys, dolls of course, are the quaintest Jack-in-"her"-box, not far from a hundred years old. Wooden, hinged

box, scant 5 inches square, pops open to let a really cute, beady-eyed, waxed maid jump up, undoubtedly, to wish one "Merry Christmas." No. A319B, \$19.50.

Eight inch old pink, stone bisque headed boy doll with wooden arms and wire construction still wears a fantastically elaborate costume of red and blue wool trimmed with many gold paper ornaments, green and yellow braid—how the moths have enjoyed this costume! But his bells still jingle as one turns him 'round about: 14 inches tall over all. No. A438, \$22.50.

Seven inches tall cartouche or heavy cardboard-pulp baby, swivel neck, jointed arms, one hand holding a nursing bottle. Cylinder type body quite heavy and certainly odd; circa 1875. No. A315, \$4.25.

Not antique, but certainly a jolly queer doll is a 20 inch regulation, real ventriloquist's dummy. In excellent condition, but not being arbitrators on Who's Who in Dummyland, we can't be sure, except that this vivacious young man in white tie'n'tails is in spic'n'span condition; his wooden jaw is hinged to gab at the fingertip control of his interlocutor. Tagged in to us as "Charley McCarthy," but no monocle, so maybe he is a copycat, but fun! No. A542, \$8.50.

Old, old and certainly different, is 7½ inch Japanese girl doll who must have come from the Flowery Kingdom via clipper ship; from an English collection where dolls had been grouped for 150 years plus. Soiled with some dust of long years, but truly in perfect condition except for one missing slender thumb, which only shows proof

that her delicate white hands are wood carved. Open-mouthed, character face; swivel head with inset eyes, and tiny, open nostrils, fascinating girl style wig. Ankle length silk dress of most unusual styling and she, perhaps a portrait, does wear missionary shoes, the likes of which we've never had on any other Japanese doll. No. A541—on original, thin wood-base. \$35.00.

Pre-Greiner, but with painted eyes, is 26 inch tall "Miss Mollie," almost mistakable for one of the American made "copies of German," which Mr. Ludwig Greiner patented here in 1858. Mollie's 6 inch fine composition head has the high, inverted V hair style with sharply modeled (16) vertical black curls which stand out quite sharply from the top of her neck, with shadow lines all around them. Complexion, deep creamy patina, blue eyes, rosy cheeks. Full length old leather arms in splendid condition, as is her slim waisted cloth body with its especially nice old strawberry tint stockings and leather shoes—no doubt original. Her lady dress looks like handkerchief linen, dotted with tiny gray sprigs of fruits and berries; low boat neck which still does not reveal the head's one break, a half inch high streak across one shoulder back. A few age cracks in the original old finish—not bad—in fact, we think she's a fine collector doll. No. A409 at \$68.00.

A CHRISTMAS BAMBINO

A special article out of Rome, by Nino Lo Bello, was published in the Kansas City Star, tying the doll hobby to Christmas so appealingly that we brief it for **Doll Talk**.

The legend is that sometime around 1450, a doll or Bambino, reputed to have been carved from an olive tree in the Garden of Gethsemane, by a Franciscan monk, was sent to Rome to join the rest of the holy family in a life-size manger scene or creche. During a storm at sea, enroute, it was thought lost, but miraculously it was protected by a floating hand-made trunk and reached Italy in time for the Christmas pageant.

For many years, this Bambino has been made the centerpiece of a dazzling Nativity scene in December, and many consider it the finest example of Italian Christmas art. A special religious service is held on Christmas afternoon, attended by a throng of devout youngsters.

Now the inspiring story has spread abroad and each year there is a flood of mail from many countries, sometimes simply addressed, "The Baby, Rome." Some children write in hopes of receiving gifts while others send money with thoughts of adoration like the magi. The persistence of a good idea is so great that the Bambino may survive long after the famous balcony of Mussolini nearby is forgotten!

DO YOU KNOW—

The marking "D.E.P." is in German the equivalent of "copyright?"

DO YOU KNOW—

Dolls having shoes painted on with flat soles are dated prior to 1860?

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"Even though I have not ordered any dolls recently, I have not lost interest or forgotten Kimport, and the McKim family and keep up with you through **Doll Talk**. It is the smallest magazine I receive, but it is the one that gives me the most pleasure."

—Miss Amanda Schwenke, Texas

"I do just love my Israeli News-boy,—he is something different. I do like these different and unusual dolls I have been getting from you,—and your selections always please me. I always look forward to my packages from you,—for I love surprise dolls."

—Miss Marie France, Penna.

"In the dear, dead past, my own play dolls included two Bye-Los, one beautiful Lenci and a good German bisque doll, but of course I gave them away before I was grown! If we only had the wisdom to know what to keep!"

—Margaret Hodges, Ala.

"At long last, my dolls have driven us into buying our own home with an extra room especially to be used for the collection. When this shipment arrives from you, my doll family will number an even hundred."

—Virginia R. Sushkoff, Calif.

"I am anxious to get to dressing that nice, new-old china doll, but first I must finish a couple of school dresses for my daughter. If I get to sewing doll clothes, poor Betsy might suffer!"

—Mary B. Snyder, N.Y.

"It was a pleasant surprise to get your letter telling that you now have the Japanese doll with set of wigs."

—M. Cardillo, N.Y.

"Oh, I do have alibis, but even so my face is so red that you should be able to see its blush clear out to Missouri! The eyes would also show up so much larger than my present purse, that frankly, I've been afraid I would write you my list of wants, completely ignoring other household needs.

"Both granddaughter Cindy and I were most happy with our free 13th Doll of the Month; we have been truly thrilled at the way that whole project works out."

—Myrtle Grossman, Ohio

AS EASY AS—

A dollar bill—or two—tucked in an envelope with the name and address of a lucky person on your Christmas list, will make that bit of your holiday shopping early, easy and enjoyable. We'll do the rest, for a year or two,—tell the recipient of your gift subscription; that **Doll Talk** will be coming their way, through your kindness. Then each sixty days we'll mail them a fresh new issue of the littlest but not least magazine; immediately a copy of last month's 32 page catalogue and frequent special lists and doll information.

Most anyone would enjoy reading **Doll Talk**, but girls in advanced grades, or teachers, or antique collectors, don't ever overlook the mothers and grandmothers, would derive a continuing pleasure from such a gift.

Better get it done today. Good idea?

DOLL PRIMER: BYE-LO, A GREAT AMERICAN DOLL

An autobiographical sketch of Grace Story Putnam (1877-1948) was used in Janet Johl's first book. It's a success story with deep overtones of sadness. Recognition and fortune did not come easy. A perfectionist and an artist, Mrs. Putnam's first doll was a "Peter Pan" done for her own five-year-old daughter, and later one called, "Helen Pan," so lifelike, folks thought it real. All the time she dreamed of a beautiful baby's head, so began seeking the perfect model. She visited friends with new babies, and went to hospitals with infants by the score, but none had the personality she sought. Finally, in a Salvation Army day nursery she found her ideal. Working swiftly and expertly, the little face and head came to life in clay; then a plaster mold and a finished wax doll head. Furnished a soft body and baby clothes the little first model, just like a real infant, was ready to find a sponsor.

The George Borgfeldt Company liked it and in short order Mrs. Putnam had a ten year contract and was on her way to doll fame. The molds were sent to J. D. Kestner Co. in Germany where the swivel heads were made in bisque with beautiful eyes. Mrs. Putnam had designed a naturalistic plastalene body and the doll was assembled in New York by Borgfeldt. This proved too expensive and only a few were made. The head was re-done with a round neck and a rim at the bottom that could be sewn into a cloth body. It was christened "Bye-Lo Baby" and sold so sensationally that it was called "The Million Dollar Baby."

There were many sizes and varieties of the "Bye-Lo," all being trade-marked with the incised name, "Grace S. Putnam" on the head as well as being stamped on the cloth bodies. In the standard model there were probably ten sizes, varying from 7 inches to full infant dimensions. A few were made dark as Negro babies.

There was a series of all bisque "Bye-Lo" dolls. The head and torso were in one piece with the shoulders and hips jointed, except the sleeping eyes models that had swivel necks. Some came barefoot, some had modeled booties; molded painted hair was usual, but wigs did show up occasionally. The eyes were glass or painted, sleeping or stationary, blue or brown. Sizes ranged from approximately 3 to 7 inches.

The great depression hit dolls as well as people, but by 1934 Borgfeldt tried to revive the "Bye-Lo" by having the heads made of composition. This was cheaper and they hoped their sturdiness would help their sales. But the saga had run out. There was fame enough in the name to outlast its generation. Mrs. Johl well named it "The Great American Doll!"

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